



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR
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September 9, 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome back to school! I hope that the school year is starting off strong for you and your student. I am writing to inform you about an exciting program that DCPS is developing that gives 6th, 7th and 8th graders financial rewards for working hard in school. The program is called Capital Gains. I am happy to work with your schools to give your child an opportunity to participate in the program, which we will launch in the next few weeks.

Students are not required to participate. During the week of September 22, you will receive an opt-out form allowing you to decline participation for your student. All students will be enrolled in the program unless your school receives this notification back from you. There will be no penalty if you and your child decide to opt-out.

Basic Program Description:

Capital Gains is based on a simple premise: incentives (whether pizza parties, good grades, hugs, trophies, praise, or the joy of learning itself) can serve to motivate students toward positive learning outcomes. Capital Gains offers short term incentives to encourage students to do what is in their long term interest: study hard and increase achievement.

Your student will earn rewards based on his or her attendance, behavior and academic performance in school. Your child's individual school will determine five specific measures, using what they feel will be most helpful in encouraging students' academic success.

Students will be given a score from 0-10 on each measure every two weeks, for a maximum of 50 points during any given reward period. Each point will be worth approximately \$2. There will be 15 reward periods over the course of the 2008-2009 school year for a maximum of about \$1500. The scores and reward amounts are confidential and will not be released to other students or be a part of your child's school record. You may request copies of your child's scores from his or her school.

The money the students earn will be deposited into individual bank accounts or distributed in the form of a personal check. Through participation in this program, we hope that students will learn that hard work improves performance, that performance is rewarded, and that saving is important.

DCPS is committed to serving all students – especially those students who do not have the same opportunities as many of their peers. We strive to provide our students with the best possible chance at success and believe that this program will offer further support and incentive to our students to learn and achieve.

I hope that you are as excited as I am for the potential benefits our students and our schools will reap from this program.

Sincerely,

Michelle Rhee, Chancellor, DCPS